

IN DAYS OF OLD

(Two of the best correspondents (unpaid) the **Clipper** ever had were the late Mary Gifford and Dr. Alice Bigelow. Here is an exchange which was published in one of the earliest **Clippers**. It concerns a Duxbury landmark. -- Ed.)

Editor, **Duxbury Clipper**:

That item from a Boston newspaper refers to "Old Dick's Monument," which formerly stood on the rise back of Louis Hunter's house and when Mrs. Baker was going to build there,

the Duxbury Rural Society thought it a pity to have it destroyed and moved it to their land by the Spar Soak, where it now is. The ball on top was of wood and covered with canvas, but decayed through the years and was removed. The quotation should read: "Whose body Nature is and God the soul."

Mary Gifford

Editor, **Duxbury Clipper**:

Your issue of May 13 refers to a century-old focus of interest on Powder Point; the Horse Monument, as the children called it. Its epitaph is not quite correctly quoted, and I venture to quote it better, at a distance of 35 miles. I learned it at an age so early that it entered indelibly into memory.

That square brick shaft, once surmounted by a red wooden ball, was erected in the middle of a pasture on the Weston estate between the site of the former National Sailor's Home and a grove of great pines which ran down to the water. The pines were removed to make way for houses. Someone bought the area of the monument and showed intention, forsooth, of tearing it down instead of laying a garden about it. The Duxbury Rural & Historical Society leaped to the rescue, as it had many times before, saved the monument, and moved it to its present location on land of their own. It stands on the east side of Powder Point Ave., opposite the junction of King Caesar Rd., adjacent to the ancient Spar Soak.

Honest Dick, whom it memorializes, was the horse that worked in the rope walk of King Caesar, walking a circular path in the winding of rope. I can remember the rope walk, which stood on the highway to the shipyard which was later made into a street and named for "King Caesar" Weston.

The slab of blue slate set into the brick structure reads as follows:

"All are but parts of one stupendous whole

Whose body nature is and God the soul.

Here lies buried Honest Dick who faithfully served 3 generations. This noble horse was born on Powder Point A.D. 1816. Here lived and here died 1846."

The children learned the introductory lines with little intelligence. The years of their teens brought them face to face with their old friend as one of the immortal couplets from *The Essay on Man* with which Pope blessed the English-speaking world.

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Powder Point